



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS OPENS LANDMARK WASTE-TO-WATTS POWER PLANT AT THE MILL SEAT LANDFILL

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks was joined by **Waste Management District Manager Jeff Richardson** as well as local officials to officially open Monroe County's first-ever public/private partnership gas-to-electric plant at the Mill Seat Landfill in the Town of Riga. The new power plant will produce 4.8 megawatts of power, and turns waste into watts through the utilization of methane gas generated from the Mill Seat Landfill.

*"The opening of the Mill Seat power plant is another step forward in my administration's efforts to reduce our community's dependence on foreign energy resources, and protect the air we breathe, and the water we drink," said **County Executive Brooks**. "By turning waste into watts at Mill Seat, we have again tapped our community's great spirit of innovation to protect our environment, and promote a more sustainable community."*

*"From the waste to watts to the ethanol plant in Orleans County to hydrogen fuel cell research, Western New York again is leading the way in using and developing alternative energy sources and technologies," said **Congressman Thomas M. Reynolds**. "I am proud to support these endeavors which will help lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy improving our national security and our environment."*

*"Having served on the first joint conference committee that created the "Power for Jobs" program, which provides low cost energy for businesses and manufacturers, as well as being a member of the Senate Committee on Energy, I have come to know all too well that rising cost of energy is a major issue facing New York State," said **Senator James S. Alesi**. "As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, I am deeply concerned about New York's distinction of having the highest energy costs in the nation and how that negatively impacts businesses currently here, as well as potential economic development opportunities. By looking for alternative sources of energy that are environmentally friendly we can provide much needed savings to businesses and residential consumers alike. I applaud Waste Management, Monroe County and the Town of Riga for their cooperative efforts."*

*"Waste Management would like to thank Maggie Brooks and Monroe County for giving us the opportunity to partner on this green energy project," stated, **Waste Management District Manager Jeff Richardson**. "Innovative projects like Mill Seat and the innovative thinking on the part of this team solidly places Monroe County and Waste Management on the map as leaders in alternative energy initiatives. Waste Management is proud of this project, and proud to be part of this team."*

Monroe County has partnered with Waste Management to operate the Mill Seat Landfill, and produce a renewable energy resource that will further move Monroe County towards greater energy independence. Today's announcement also reinforces the County Executive's strong

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Mill Seat Landfill Power Plant Grand Opening

Page 2

commitment to our region's natural environment, and further establishes Monroe County as one of New York State's leaders in promoting the use of alternative energy.

The \$9.5 million dollar facility has been financed through the New York Power Authority on a low interest loan. Congressman Reynolds was instrumental in obtaining \$300,000 in funding through former Governor George Pataki for the project, and has supported the project through his efforts in Washington. In addition, Senator Jim Alesi and the New York Power Authority have also provided low-cost financing and a direct \$200,000 grant to develop the power plant.

The new 10,000 sq. ft. renewable energy facility constructed at the Mill Seat Landfill houses six Caterpillar 3516 engines. These engines will generate nearly 4.8 megawatts of energy - enough to replace more than 110,000 barrels of oil - and to generate electricity for more than 3,052 homes.

Energy is produced at Mill Seat following the decomposition of organic waste material located within the landfill. A unique facet of this project is the introduction of biosolids (sewage sludge) from the County's two wastewater treatment plants to the landfill's solid waste. The decomposition of this mixture enhances the production of methane gas, which is extracted and transported to the landfill gas energy facility through a series of wells and pipes. The gas is de-watered, filtered and pressurized at the facility, and is then piped to the generators, where the fuel turns the engines to produce electricity. Biosolids methane enhancement is achieved adding additional moisture and organics to the dry garbage. This process allowed Monroe County to end the costly and emission-producing practice of biosolids incineration-another environmental win.

Once the energy is produced at the landfill, it will be released via transmission line into the New York power pool for redistribution. Utility companies would then have the option to purchase this "green energy" from Mill Seat.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the energy produced from a 4.8 megawatt facility such as Mill Seat would produce the following benefits:

- Removing emissions equivalent to 40,025 vehicles
- Planting 57,035 acres of forest
- Offsetting the use of 1,023 railcars of coal
- Averting electricity usage of 374,003 light bulbs

Finally, the EPA also estimates that a 4.8 megawatt facility would consume 9,562 tons of methane gas annually, while saving 27,342 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

(For further information, please refer to the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program – located at <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/res/calc.htm>)

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